Job Search

**Application** 

Career Focused Resume

Job Interview

# Job Seeking Skills Training Workbook

Nebraska VR

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## Introduction to Job Seeking Skills Workshop



Thank you for participating in Job Seeking Skills Training. It is the first step in getting ready to begin your job search. You will learn the basics of how to find, apply for, and interview for a job. We believe that once you understand these basic elements and with practice, you will in time become successfully employed.

We will begin by helping you identify where to find job openings. You will learn that most job openings never reach the newspaper want ads. Instead they are found through networking and cold calling.

Employers tell us you need to have a quality application. This includes accurately listing your skills, job history and personal information. You will learn how to tailor your application to the specific job and employer you want. A quality application, will lead you to the next step, the interview.

Attending an interview can be nerve wracking since we are never sure what questions will be asked. We will help you prepare for your interview by reviewing commonly asked questions and helping you formulate good answers. We will even tackle those tough questions centering on background checks, gaps in employment history and your disability.

When you have completed Job Seeking Skills Training, you will be ready to work with your placement staff in finding and keeping the job you want.

## Welcome, let's get started!

### How and Where to Find a Job

### **Job Search Tips**

- Use the hidden job market
- Network often
- Research company
- Find out the hiring process
- Get the name of the hiring decision maker
- Get a job description
- Match your skills to the position
- Submit applications
- Be prepared to make good impression

### **Hidden Job Market**

- Networking
- Referral from other people who are working
- Employer networking event
- Staffing agencies

### Stay Organized

- · Create a weekly schedule
- Commit to your job search daily
- Keep a list of prospective employers
- Maintain your Weekly Job Search Record

### **First Impressions**

So much of the successful job search depends on the impression one makes in the first few seconds. Remember whether you are picking up or returning an application, inquiring about an opening or going for an interview; your appearance, attitude and preparedness matters!

### Remember that you will never have a second chance to make a first impression.

#### **Create a Good Impression**

- Project confidence with good posture
- Be enthusiastic and energetic
- Dress professionally
- Develop a firm handshake

#### **Begin Building Rapport Immediately**

- Use positive non-verbal cues (smile, lean forward, make eye contact, use pleasant voice)
- Ask questions
- Stay focused

- Use the name of the person to whom you are speaking
- Listen actively

#### **Appearance Tips**

- Dress one level above what is worn on the job
- Proper grooming and hygiene
- Be conscious of accessories, tattoos, cigarette smoke, and cologne

#### **Technology Tips**

- Record a professional message
- Advise anyone who may answer your phone to take a message and be polite
- Use a professional email address
- Check your email/voicemail often for employer response
- Ensure email/voicemail aren't full

#### A Few Suggestions

- Never talk negatively about a former employer or co-worker, or even in general conversation (i.e. weather, sports, etc.)
- Try to avoid nervous phrases such as, "you know," "uh" and others; it's okay to take a moment to think about a question
- Keep to the point. Respond to the question and, if possible, demonstrate with an example; but know when enough has been said. Although it is important to be confident, do not attempt to take over the interview by talking to much
- Don't exaggerate or contradict yourselfstick to the facts
- If you have a contact within the organization, it is acceptable to mention this, but do not dwell on it

### A Last-Minute Checklist

### **Good Personal Hygiene**

	Dress one step better than what is expected	Br
	for the position	a p
	Get a good night's sleep	ba
	Take a shower	Br
	Shampoo your hair	tra
	Shave	Ве
	Brush your teeth	an
	Use mouthwash	Wı
	Use deodorant	ad
	Comb your hair	or
	Clean and trim your nails	Br
	Wear clean, freshly pressed clothes	Pla
	Shine your shoes	int
		Sh
Ap	propriate dress	Ве
		the
	Wear the proper clothes, shoes and	co
	accessories	
	Wear conservative colors	
	No slogans, advertising, or religious symbols	
	on clothing	

☐ Eliminate excessive jewelry and make-up

Eliminate perfumes or colognes
Avoid the odor of cigarette/cigar smoke
Cover tatoos and remove piercings as
appropriate

#### **Arrival**

Bring two forms of current ID (one must be
a picture ID), your social security card, and
bank account information
Bring money for gas, parking, and public
transportation
Be prepared with your resume, a notebook,
and a pen
Write the manager's name, department,
address, and phone number in the notebook
or ask for a business card
Bring the Job Facts Guide
Plan to arrive 10 minutes before the
interview begins
Shut cell phone off
Be courteous, if you are going to be late call
the manager ahead of time and see if you
could reschedule



## Organize Your Job Search

### **Networking:**

You can use this networking section to assist in brainstorming ideas of individuals who could possibly help you find employment.

Relatives, Friends and Neighbors Who are Working:					
People with Whom You Do Business:					
Department of Labor or Staffing Agencies:					
Social Networking Sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc):					
Businesses Where I Want to Work:					
Bulletin Boards Listing Leads:					
Career Fairs:					
Yellow Pages:					
Weekly Job Search Record:					
Contact Date:	Contact Person:				
Employer:	Address:				
Phone:	Submitted: Application   Yes	□No	Resume	☐ Yes	□No
Type of Work:	Results:				
Follow-up Date:	Results:				
Contact Date:	Contact Person:				
Employer:	Address:				
Phone:	Submitted: Application	∐No	Resume	☐ Yes	□No
Type of Work:	Results:				
Follow-up Date:	Results:				
Contact Date:	Contact Person:				
Employer:	Address:				
Phone:	Submitted: Application $\square$ Yes	□No	Resume	☐ Yes	□No
Type of Work:	Results:				
Follow-up Date:	Results:				

## The Quality Application

## Job Application Tips

- Have your job history information organized
- Read application carefully
- Follow instructions
- Use blue or black ink
- Phrase things honestly and positively
- Check spelling and grammar
- Fill in all blanks or mark N/A
- Be cautious about information regarding age or disability status
- Sign the application
- Follow up if you'd like to apply for another position with the same company

### **Work History**

- Have all the information you need on hand
- Be exact with your dates
- Be prepared to explain gaps in employment
- Choose a supervisor who likes you
- List volunteer activities if you have little or no work history
- Be brief on the reason for leavings

## **Online Application Tips**

- Have your information organized before you start (including a .pdf resume)
- Double check what's filled in automatically
- Save your form as you go
- Make sure application is submitted successfully
- Use an appropriate user ID and password and write them down

### **Online Advantages**

- Online applications work well in today's market
- They give you an excellent description of the position
- Easier to fix errors and make changes
- Allows good use of your job search time
- Gives you more space for details
- Don't have to worry about handwriting

Online is often the only way to apply for certain positions.

### **Job Description Statements**

Employers will want to know what you've done on each job. Include as much detail as you can so you can paint a good picture of your duties and responsibilities. See pages 27-28 for a list the of action words.

Action word	What	How
Example: Cleaned	floors	with sweep, mop, and buffer

## Listing Reasons for Leaving Jobs

Employers will take special note of your reasons for leaving past jobs. They will be watching for indications that you may have had difficulty getting along with others, health problems and for other signs of "trouble." Take care when you indicate these reasons on an application form as well as while answering questions during an interview.

#### **Avoid Using:**

- Fired
- Injury
- Health Problems
- Personal Problems
- · Laid Off
- Not Enough Money or Benefits
- Didn't Like Job
- Didn't Like Company
- Didn't Like Boss
- Quit (may appear that you have a bad attitude or don't get along with others)

#### **Use Instead:**

- Looking for more responsibility
- Seeking a more challenging position
- Desire a career change
- Unable to meet requirements
- Opportunity to utilize my skills
- There was not enough work
- There was a company-wide lay off
- My job was phased out

**Job Advancement:** if you went to a job offering more money, better position, more benefits, and/or opportunity for advancement.

#### Other positive reasons for leaving:

- Moved or relocated
- Care for my family
- School or training
- Seasonal or temporary job
- Second job

### Background Checks

A background check may include:

- Credit report
- DMV Record
- School transcripts
- Criminal charges/registries (Sex Offender, Abuse/Neglect)
- Felony and misdemeanor convictions
- Calling past employers
- Web search/social networking sites

Employers will do a criminal background check. Honesty is important in discussing a criminal record. An employer may accept the criminal background but lying will always cause your application to be rejected. If you have a criminal background be prepared for questions concerning the date and type of offense. If you are uncertain about the information needed don't guess! You can do your own background check. Discuss with your VR counselor any questions or concerns you may have prior to an application or interview.

### Choosing References

Now is the time to contact your references:

- Identify 3 or 4 people
- All references should know your work habits and job related skills (use a coworker rather than an HR person)
- Get their contact information
- Be sure to get permission to use someone as a reference and provide them with a copy of your work history
- Maintain contact

See page 16 for an example of a reference page.

#### APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

We are an equal opportunity employer, and will not permit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, citizenship, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or disability. Employment related decisions, such as hiring, promotion, training, and discipline will be made for legitimate business reasons based upon qualifications and other non-discriminatory factors. We further comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations pertaining to equal employment opportunity.

PLEASE PRINT			loday's Date:				
Position(s) A	Applied for:			Desired Salary:			
Last Name:				First:		Middle:	
Address:				Email Address:			
City:				State:		ZIP Code:	
Telephone:				Social Security	Number:		
Do you have	e a legal right to	o work in the US	? ☐ Yes ☐ No				
Have you be	een convicted c	of a crime other t	than a minor traffic v	/iolation? ☐ Yes	□No		
If yes, pleas	e explain:						
Are you willi	ing to work? Ma	ark all that apply					
•		urs each week)	☐ Tempora	rv 🗆 Evei	nings $\square$	Overnights	
		hours each wee				Days	
What date a	ire you availabl	e to start?					
Mark the da	ys and hours o	f availability:					
Day	☐ Monday	☐ Tuesday	☐ Wednesday	☐ Thursday	☐ Friday	☐ Saturday	Sunday
From	,		,				
То							
reasonable	accommodation	limitations that was of the position	ould prohibit you fron(s) for which you a	om performing an re applying? □	y of the job fu Yes □ No		without
If yes, pleas							
Do you have	e any other nan	nes by which yo	ur records would be	found?			
EDUCATIO	NAL BACKGR	OUND:					
	School			# of Years	Degre		rea
	Name		Location	Completed	Diplo	ma o	f Study
High School	l l						
College							
Other							
SKILLS AN	D QUALIFICAT	TIONS:					

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** Please provide the following information for your past and current employers, assignments, and volunteer activities, starting with the most recent.

	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer	From	
Address	То	
Phone Number(s)	Hourly Rate or Salary	
Job Title	Starting \$	
Supervisor	Ending \$	
Reason for Leaving		
	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer	From	
Address	То	
Phone Number(s)	Hourly Rate or Salary	
Job Title	Starting \$	
Supervisor	Ending \$	
Reason for Leaving		
	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer	From	
Address	То	
Phone Number(s)	Hourly Rate or Salary	
Job Title	Starting \$	
Supervisor	Ending \$	
Reason for Leaving	•	

**REFERENCES** Other than friends or relatives, i.e. business associates.

Name	Address City, State & Zip	Phone	Occupation	Years Known

By signing this application, I declare the information provided by me is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission on this application may preclude an offer of employment or may result in a withdrawal of an employment offer, or may result in my discharge from employment if I am already employed at the time of misrepresentation or omission is discovered.

Applicant's Signature	Todav's Da
Applicarit s Signature	I Duay 3

## Tailoring Your Skills

### You be the Hiring Committee

Review the job applications on pages 10-15 and discuss in class each of the candidate's application. Select who you think would best qualify for a job interview.

### Now You Try It!

Chose **one** of the following job descriptions to match with your skills. Underline the skills you have and write them on the lines below (as you would list them in the Skills and Qualification section of an application).

#### **Assembly Operator**

The selected candidate will be responsible for operating and monitoring the process to verify proper assembly, perform quality inspections, package and label product as required and ability to work in a team environment and communicate with all team members in a professional and productive manner. Past experience in a production setting and basic mechanical aptitude highly desired. Detail oriented and high quality standards required. High school diploma or GED is required.

#### Custodian

**Position Summary:** Keep building in clean and orderly condition.

Responsibilities: Clean building floors by sweeping, mopping, scrubbing, and vacuuming. Gather and empty trash. Service, clean, and supply restrooms. Clean windows, glass partitions, and mirrors. Dust furniture, walls, desks, and filing cabinets. Requisition supplies and equipment needed for cleaning and maintenance duties. Other duties as assigned.

**Requirements:** High School diploma or equivalent. Some experience with office building cleaning. Ability to effectively communicate. Detail oriented. Self motivated. Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds.

#### **Cashier Team Member**

**Description:** Provide fast, fun and friendly checkout service. Resolve guest concerns in a positive, helpful manner. Work as part of a team. Solicit guest credit card registrations.

Requirements: Use excellent guest service skills. Handle money, refunds, and exchanges. Learn new technology. Read labels and other product information. Cross train and work in other areas of store as needed. Quickly and accurately scan and bag all items and collect payment.

#### Office Assistant:

**Summary:** Performs a variety of general office work including typing, filing, and receptionist duties in a support of a busy nonprofit office.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or GED. One (1) year of clerical and/or receptionist experience. Experience talking and transferring telephone calls. Customer service experience. Basic computer and word processing skills. Verbal and written communication skills in English and a demonstrated ability to read and comprehend written/graphic and oral instructions. Any equivalent combination of training, education, or experience that meets the minimum requirements.

### You be the Hiring Committee Activity

### **APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT**

We are an equal opportunity employer, and will not permit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, citizenship, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or disability. Employment related decisions, such as hiring, promotion, training, and discipline will be made for legitimate business reasons based upon qualifications and other non-discriminatory factors. We further comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations pertaining to equal employment opportunity.

PLEASE PI	RINT			Today's Date:	Septemb	er 30, 2	014
Position(s)	Applied for: M	aintenance/	Housekeepina	Desired Salary	open :		
	Carlson		1	First: Micha	ı	Middle:	L.
	319 Peters	on Road		Email Address:			
City: Ome	aha			State: NE		ZIP Cod	de: 68104
Telephone:	(402) 86	0-4211	(MC)	Social Security	Number:	-  -	
Do you have	e a legal right t	o work in the US	? 🛚 Yes 🗆 No				
Have you be	een convicted	of a crime other	than a minor traffic	violation?   Yes	s 🛛 No		
If yes, pleas	e explain: N	/A					
X Full-time	(40 or more ho	ark all that apply ours each week) hours each wee	☐ Tempora	ary ⊠ Eve nds □ Hol		Overnights Days	
What date a	ire you availab	le to start?					
Mark the da	ys and hours o	of availability:					
	X Monday		★ Wednesday	X Thursday	<b>⊠</b> Friday	□ Saturday	/ □ Sunday
Day From	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	□ Saturday □ Open	Open
To	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
10	Орсп	Горон	Орсп	Горен	Горон	Орсп	
Do you hav reasonable	e any physical accommodatio	limitations that wons of the position	vould prohibit you fr n(s) for which you a	rom performing an are applying?	ny of the job f ]Yes		or without
If yes, pleas	e specify: NA	+					
Do you have	e any other nar	mes by which yo	ur records would be	e found? NA			
FDUCATIO	NAL BACKGR	SOLIND.					
LDOOMIIO	School	.cons.		# of Years	Degi	reel	Area
	Name		Location	Completed	Diplo		of Study
High Schoo		n High	1800 J St Lincoln, NE 68510	4	Di	ploma	General
	South	neast	8800 O St	3	N	0	Heating & Air
College		College	Lincoln, NE 68510				Conditioning
Other			- <del>                                     </del>				
			ı	I	I		1
	D QUALIFICA			t t	1	1	C
							afe environmer
	,	•	y. Four year	s experienc	e in cust	omer ser	TVICE.
Ability t	o prepare	: written ro	eports.				

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: Please provide the following information for your past and current employers, assignments, and volunteer activities, starting with the most recent.

	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Hillside Retirement Center	From Jan. 2011	Mow grounds, keep driveways
Address 82041 Atlantic Rd Omaha NE	To current	clean. Maintain safety in lots,
Phone Number(s) (402) 498-0429	Hourly Rate or Salary	log and record planting
Job Title Maintenance	Starting \$8.50	schedule.
Supervisor Dwayne Lewis	Ending \$9.00	
Reason for Leaving Currently still employed		

	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Lawn Sharks	From May 2009	Mowed and trimmed multiple
Address 218 E. Hwy 2 Lincoln NE	To Dec. 2010	lawns daily. Kept track of
Phone Number(s) (402) 476-IIII	Hourly Rate or Salary	hours worked.
Job Title Lawn Maintenance	Starting \$7.75	
Supervisor Carla Stephens	Ending \$8.00	
Reason for Leaving Relocated to Omaha	·	

	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Sears	From June 2006	Assisted customers in retail
Address 6241 Gateway St Lincoln NE	To April 2009	sales. ran cash register.
Phone Number(s) (402) 488-1212	Hourly Rate or Salary	Stocked and organized
Job Title Cashier		department daily.
Supervisor Dan Brock	Ending \$7.20	,
Reason for Leaving Education		

**REFERENCES** Other than friends or relatives, i.e. business associates.

Name	Address City, State & Zip	Phone	Occupation	Years Known
Mark Abbott	2419 E. 4th Lincoln NE 68512	(c) 402-491-1241	Banker	8
Harrison Davis	824 Blondo St Omaha NE 68101	(h) 402-479-1444	Teacher	5
Mindy Dalby	2477 Melrose Lincoln NE 68506	(h) 402-261-4116	Retail	8
Josh Crawford	3229 Sewell St Gretna, NE 68941	(c) 402-870-1427	Production	2

By signing this application, I declare the information provided by me is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission on this application may preclude an offer of employment or may result in a withdrawal of an employment offer, or may result in my discharge from employment if I am already employed at the time of misrepresentation or omission is discovered.

Michael L. Carson

September 30, 2014 Today's Date

Applicant's Signature

#### APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

We are an equal opportunity employer, and will not permit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, citizenship, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or disability. Employment related decisions, such as hiring, promotion, training, and discipline will be made for legitimate business reasons based upon qualifications and other non-discriminatory factors. We further comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations pertaining to equal employment opportunity.

PLEASE P	RINT			Today's Date: 9	/30/2014			
Position(s)	Applied for: #	ousekeepin	a	Desired Salary:	\$10.00	per hour		
Last Name:		1	d	First: Marg	. /	Middle:	+	
Address: 6	22 North	5th		Email Address:		(	)	
City: Lo	uisville			State: NE		ZIP Code	: 68542	
Telephone:	(402) 896	5-4207		Social Security I	Number:			
Do you hav	e a legal right to	o work in the US	? X Yes □ No					
Have you b	een convicted o	of a crime other t	han a minor traffic	violation?   Yes	□No			
If yes, pleas	se explain:							
Full-time Representations	_	ark all that apply. urs each week) hours each weel e to start?				Overnights Days		
	ays and hours o							
						_		
Day	☐ Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	☐ Saturday	□ Sunday	
From -	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30	9:30			
То	3:30	3:30	3:30	3:30	3:30			
Do you hav reasonable	e any physical l accommodation	imitations that wns of the position	ould prohibit you fronce (s) for which you a	om performing an re applying? 🏻 🛚 🗡	y of the job fu Yes ☐ No		or without	
		ick Injury						
Do you hav	e any other nan	nes by which you	ur records would be	found?				
EDUCATIO	NAL BACKGR	OUND:						
	School Name		Location	# of Years Completed	Degre Diplo		Area of Study	
High Schoo		ille High	Louisville	4	198	74	General	
College								
Other	Other							
	along good		rs and am a	. hard work	cer			

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** Please provide the following information for your past and current employers, assignments, and volunteer activities, starting with the most recent.

	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Gretna Schools	From 9-2011	cleaned inside rooms and
Address Gretna	To CO 10-2012	parking lots
Phone Number(s) 402-564-9908	Hourly Rate or Salary	1
Job Title Housekeeder	Starting \$8.75	
Supervisor Bill	Ending \$9.25	
Reason for Leaving couldn't do the work		

	<b>Dates Employed</b>	Work Performed
Employer Big Inn	From 2-2008	Cleaned rooms, on-call, had
Employer Big Inn Address Greenwood	To 12-2010	to manage desk when boss
Phone Number(s) 402-9604-2121	Hourly Rate or Salary	
Job Title Housekeeper	Starting \$7.00	
Supervisor Mel Harris	Ending \$ 8.10	
Reason for Leaving Cared for family		

	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Dairy Queen	From $12 - 2002$	worked front counter,
Employer Dairy Queen Address Louisville	To 4-2008	made food
Phone Number(s) 846-6214	Hourly Rate or Salary	
Job Title ?-Did it all	Starting \$	
Supervisor Can't remember	Ending \$	
Reason for Leaving quit-got a better full time		

**REFERENCES** Other than friends or relatives, i.e. business associates.

Name	Address City, State & Zip	Phone	Occupation	Years Known
Harold Jackson	8642 Knot St	402-944-210	0 Business	8
Jean Jackson	W 11	W II	mom	8

By signing this application, I declare the information provided by me is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission on this application may preclude an offer of employment or may result in a withdrawal of an employment offer, or may result in my discharge from employment if I am already employed at the time of misrepresentation or omission is discovered.

Margaret Thorn	9/30/2014
. 0	

Applicant's Signature

Today's Date

#### APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

We are an equal opportunity employer, and will not permit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, religion, citizenship, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation or disability. Employment related decisions, such as hiring, promotion, training, and discipline will be made for legitimate business reasons based upon qualifications and other non-discriminatory factors. We further comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations pertaining to equal employment opportunity.

PLEASE PI	KINI			loday's	s Date:				
Position(s)	Applied for: a	nything		Desire	d Salary:				
Last Name: Monroe			First:	Jerr	У	Middle:			
Address: 5	SF 1522	N9+4		Email A	Address:	•			
City: Ke	arney			State:	NE		ZIP Code	689	6884
	222-6219	•		Social	Security	Number:			
Do you have	e a legal right to	o work in the US	?						
Have you be	een convicted o	of a crime other t	han a minor traffic v	violation'	? 🗌 Yes	□No			
If yes, pleas	se explain:								
Are vou willi	ina to work? Ma	ark all that apply.							
_	-	urs each week)	☐ Tempora	ırv	□ Ever	nings $\square$	Overnights		
☐ Part-time	(Less than 40	hours each weel	k)		□ Holid	days 🗆	Days		
What date a	are you availabl	e to start?							
	ys and hours o								
IVIAIN LITE UA									
Day	Monday	Tuesday	☑ Wednesday	Thur		Friday	Saturday	Sun	iday
From	9	8	9:00	90		9:00			
То	4:30	2:00	4:00	4:0	0	12:30			
Do you have reasonable	e any physical laccommodatio	limitations that w	ould prohibit you fronces	om perfo re applyi	rming aning?	y of the job fu Yes □ No		or without	
If yes, pleas	se specify:	<u> </u>	•						
Do you have	e any other nar	nes by which you	ur records would be	found?					
EDUCATIO	NAL BACKGR	OUND:							
	School Name		Location		f Years npleted	Degre Diplo		Area of Study	
High Schoo	. East	High	KS		3				
College									
Other									
SKILLS AN	D QUALIFICA	TIONS:							
		# * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *							

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:** Please provide the following information for your past and current employers, assignments, and volunteer activities, starting with the most recent.

	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Yellow Van	From 6-12	clean office
Address Omaha	To 10/12	drive to job sites
Phone Number(s)	Hourly Rate or Salary	
Job Title See cleaner	Starting \$ § .50	
Supervisor Tog	Ending \$	
Reason for Leaving didn't like job	8.75	
	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Sunrise Middle School	From 8/2009	clean, fix things
Address Summerville KS	To May, 12	clean, fix things mow, change light bulbs
Phone Number(s)	Hourly Rate or Salary	3 3
Job Title Clerk	Starting \$ <i>9.30</i>	
Supervisor	Ending \$10.00	
Reason for Leaving Quit		
	Dates Employed	Work Performed
Employer Walmart	From 2007	push carts
Address Summerville KS	To 7-2009	,
Phone Number(s)	Hourly Rate or Salary	
Job Title cart pusher.	Starting \$ 6.00	
Supervisor Lana L	Ending \$	

**REFERENCES** Other than friends or relatives, i.e. business associates.

new job

Reason for Leaving

Name	Address City, State & Zip	Phone	Occupation	Years Known
Sam Luthor	134 N 2nd	?	cashier	3
Arnold Green	122 584 Dover	626-2189	retired	5

By signing this application, I declare the information provided by me is complete and true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission on this application may preclude an offer of employment or may result in a withdrawal of an employment offer, or may result in my discharge from employment if I am already employed at the time of misrepresentation or omission is discovered.

## Filling Out Your Resume

### References

A lot of people want to write "References available upon request" on their resume; however, it is not necessary. It is understood that if an employer wants vour references, they will ask for them. But if you do include a reference page, make it a separate page. It should include:

- The same heading as your resume
- The names of your references, job titles, companies they work for, daytime telephone numbers, email address, and the address of employment if at all possible

#### **References Tips:**

- Make sure you contact all of your references to get permission to use them (do not use friends or relatives)
- All references should have positive things to say about you. If you are not sure whether someone will give a good reference, do not use them!
- Give a copy of your resume/work history to your references so they can reinforce the information you present to the employer

If you are supposed to give professional references, choose past supervisors or co-workers (not an HR representative)

EXAMPLE OF A REFERENCE PAGE

## JENNIFER C. HELM

4223 Linoma Dr. • Omaha, NE 68154 • 402.555.5555 • jchelm@hotmail.com

### REFERENCES

Dede Conrad, Office Manager Sitel Corporation 8989 W. Dodge Street Omaha, NE 68111 (402) 555-1515 dedec@sitel.com

Shane Matthews, Insurance Agent Representative Concord Insurance Services, Inc. 13623 Center Street Omaha, NE 68131 (402) 555-1212 shane.matthews@concordins.com

Charlie Stevens, District Supervisor Concord Insurance Services, Inc. 13623 Center Street Omaha, NE 68131 (402) 555-1219 charles.stevens@concordins.com

## JENNIFER C. HELM

4223 Linoma Dr. • Omaha, NE 68154 • 402.555.5555 • jchelm@hotmail.com

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Ten years of experience in the sales and customer service industry
- Proficient in MS Office and basic computer programs, type 45 WP
- Exceeded individual sales quota for the past three years
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Supervised four employees

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Insurance Agent Telemarketer

Concord Insurance Services, Inc. - Omaha, NE

5/2008 - Present

- Sold various automotive insurances to clients over the phone
- Work with major insurance companies throughout the Midwest area
- Received various awards for meeting and exceeding sales quotas
- Design helpful aides to locate codes in order to minimize lookup time

### **Customer Service Representative**

Marriott Reservations - Omaha, NE

1/2002 - 5/2008

- Explained reservation options to guests over the phone
- Input reservation information into company computer system
- Assisted customers with complaint resolution

### **Verification Clerk**

West Corporation - Omaha, NE

1/2000 - 1/2002

- Verified telephone sales by listening to representatives' sales tapes
- Entered alpha numeric reports into the company system
- Received "Outstanding Achievement" award three years in a row

### **EDUCATION**

### **Bachelor of Art- Psychology**

University of Nebraska at Omaha - Omaha, NE

- Magna Cum Laude
- Dean's Honor Roll

### CERTIFICATION

- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Certificate from Caregiver Support Services
- Certified in Basic Life Support and CPR

### **VOLUNTEER**

- Habitat of Humanity
- Children's Hospital

## FIRST M. LAST

Street Address • City, State ZIP Code • Phone • E-mail Address

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Look at the job requirements and include them in your bullet points.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Job Title

Employer - City, State

Months/Years of Employment

### Job Title

Employer - City, State

Months/Years of Employment

### Job Title

Employer - City, State

Months/Years of Employment

### **EDUCATION** (If Applicable)

### Type of degree and field

Name of College or School- City, State

List other honors if possible

### **CERTIFICATION**

## VOLUNTEER (If Applicable)

Place worked or position held

### SAMPLE OF A COVER LETTER

## John A. Smith

701 South Grove, P.O. Box 649, Smalltown, NE 68600 Phone: 402-222-3327 jasmith@yahoo.com

Jane Doe/Human Resources XYZ Company Columbus, NE 68601

September 1, 2014

Please accept my resume for your consideration regarding the loader/utility position Good Day, that was advertised in the Columbus Telegram.

I have extensive experience in the construction field including: concrete, steel, framework, finish and other types of general construction. I am capable of operating a variety of equipment such as loaders, backhoes, skids, forklifts and because of my farming background a vast knowledge of agricultural equipment. I enjoy physical work that results in visible accomplishments at the end of the day.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to meeting with you to further discuss my qualifications and your hiring needs. I can be reached at 402-222-3327 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

John Smith

### **Cover Letter Checklist**

The letter is addressed to a specific person	I included different information than was
I included the person's correct title	listed in the application
I spelled the person's name correctly	I proofread my letter at least twice for
I double-checked the company's address	grammar, spelling, and typing errors
My letter is less than one page	I included my resume behind the cover
Each paragraph contains no more than two	letter without clips or staples
or three sentences	The company name and address on the
I highlighted my strengths	letter match those on the envelope
I focused on the needs of the employer and	I signed the letter in blue or black ink
the job description of the position I am	-
seeking	
I included my current phone number	

## FIRST M. LAST

Street Address • City, State ZIP Code • Phone • E-mail Address

Name Department Business name Street address
City, State and zip
Date
Dear (name an individual if applicable),
Include the name of the position and how you heard about it
Summarize your strengths and how they will be an advantage to the organization. Relate your skills to the job-required skills.
Close up the letter by repeating your interest in the job, thank the employer, and state you look forward to hearing from them.
Sincerely,
Your Signature Your name
Your name

20 9/2014

## Successful Interviewing

## Prepare for the Interview

#### Do your research about the company

- Type of industry, years in business, etc.
- Know the company's mission, vision, and goals

#### Find out about the job

- Review job description if possible
- Have questions ready for the interview
- Be ready to describe how your are an asset

### Last Minute Checklist

### Good Personal Hygiene

Ш	Get a good night's sleep
	Take a shower
	Shave
	Brush your teeth
	Use deodorant
	Comb your hair
	Clean and trim your nails

#### Appropriate dress

Wear the proper clothes, shoes and
accessories
Wear conservative colors
No slogans, advertising, or religious symbols
on clothing
Eliminate excessive jewelry and make-up
Eliminate perfumes or colognes
Avoid the odor of cigarette/cigar smoke
Cover tatoos and remove piercings as
appropriate

#### Arrival

Bring two forms of current ID (one must be
a picture ID), your social security card, and
bank account information
Bring money for gas, parking, and public
transportation

# □ Be prepared with your resume, a notebook, and a pen □ Plan to arrive 10 minutes before the interview begins □ Shut cell phone off □ Be courteous, □ If you are going to be late call the manager

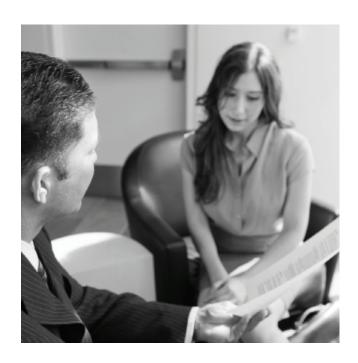
### In the Interview

ahead of time and see if you could

Stay positive

reschedule

- Try to avoid nervous phrases, such as "uh," "um," and "you know"
- Silence is okay, it is ok to take a moment to think
- Do not ramble keep to the point and know when to end your answer
- Let the interviewer lead the interview
- Do no interrupt
- Keep conversation job related
- Answer all the questions to the best of your ability



### Two Types of Interview Questions

#### 1. Traditional

- "Tell me about yourself."
- "What is your greatest weakness?"
- "Why do you want to work here?"

You should prepare for these questions and have examples ready. Practice your answers ahead of time.

#### 2. Behavioral

- These questions are to evaluate your past to see if you "fit" the job.
- The questions are looking at attitudes, work habits and skills.
- They may start with "Tell me about a time.."
- Be ready with specific examples, such as, "When I was a \_\_ at \_\_"
- The key to your response is the action taken.

### Frequently Asked Interview Questions

- Tell me about yourself.
- What is your greatest strength?
- What is your greatest weakness?
- What would you like to be doing in five years?
- Why did you leave your last job?
- Why do you want to work for this company?
- How do you handle stress?
- Tell me about a time you had to deal with conflict at the workplace.
- Tell me about a time when you were on a team.
- Tell me a time when you had a deadline.
- Tell me how you prioritize.

### Disability Accommodations

- Discuss your personal situation with your placement specialist.
- Be prepared to discuss visible disabilities with an employer
- Do you require accommodations should only be asked by the employer after accepting a job offer
- An employer is only obligated to make reasonable accommodations if you disclose

### The "Pay" Question

- Do your research
- Ask for what you deserve and explain why
- If possible, do not give a number
- Consider benefits, people, environment, etc

### STAR Technique

When giving an example of something, make sure to tell the whole story by using the **STAR** Technique:

Situation or Task - set up the situation by giving the example itself

Action taken - what you did do about the problem or what actions you took

Results - what happened because of your actions

### **Tell About Yourself**

### **Example:**

Fill in the blanks:

I am an energetic person who enjoys talking with people. I have four years of experience in the customer service industry, and I am able to assist anyone who calls in. I look forward to teaching others what I've learned so your customers can continue to be satisfied when they call for help.

I am a(1) person who enjoys talking with people.
I have(2) years experience in(3) and am able to(4)
I look forward to(5)
1. Adjective (a word that describes your personality):
2. How many years of experience:
3. What industry or area do you work in?
4. List a strength that has to do with the job your are applying for
5. What your job goal or career objective is - what can you do for their company?
Take your answers from above and form a short paragraph:

### What is your greatest strength?

### **Example:**

Fill in the blanks:

My greatest strength is (1) my ability to calm down customers who are upset. (2) While working at the Verizon call center, a woman called about her phone service; she was not happy with it and was yelling at me. (3) I let her know I understood her frustrations, repeated her complaints, and what we could do to help her. (4) When she realized I was on her side, she was able to calm down and we were able to talk through how to resolve the issue with her service.

for the job.

(1) What $is$ your greatest strength?	Pick ONE that w	vill show why your a	are a good fit

Give an example of how you use this strength.  (2) What was the situation?
(3) What did you do about it (how did you use your strength)?
(4) What was the result?
Your answer - take the answers from above and form a short paragraph:

### What is your greatest weakness?

### **Example:**

(1) My greatest weakness is my lack of computer skills. (2). I have been practicing at the library, though, and my basic computer skills are much better than they were a year ago. (3) I now know how to search the internet, send emails, and create spreadsheets.

#### Fill in the blanks:

(1) What is your greatest weakness? Pick ONE that is job-related, but not essential to the job your are applying for.
(2) How have you gone about overcoming this, or not letting it get in the way of being successful on the job?
(3) In what ways has this helped you?
Your answer - take the answers from above and form a short paragraph:

## Closing the Interview

### **Questions for the Employer**

This is your chance to ask more about the job, company and work culture. Asking about salary, perks, or benefits should wait until a job offer or second interview.

- Can you tell me what a typical day is like?
- What does the ideal applicant look like?
- When can I expect to hear from you?
- What is your management style?
- What do you like about working here?
- Can you show me where I'd be working?

One of the last interview questions an employer will ask is "**Do you have any questions?**" The employer asks this as a common courtesy and as one more test of the job seeker. You will do well with this question by simply having three to five questions ready. If you don't trust your memory or thought processes in this pressure filled situation, you may write down a couple fairly generic questions beforehand and take them with you to the interview.

### Interview Wrap-up

- **1. Thank the interviewer** by name and shake his/her hand. While shaking hands, say "Thank you (Mr. or Mrs. or Ms. Whomever) for your time today."
- 2. Express interest. Tell them you are interested in the position or organization (or both), whichever makes sense. For example: "The position we discussed today is just what I have been looking for, and I'm very impressed by your organization, too."
- 3. Ask when can you expect to hear from them?
- 4. Ask for a business card.
- **5. Be persistent.** It may take up to six contacts to get a job offer.

### After the Interview

#### **Evaluate yourself**

- What went well?
- What can you improve?
- How can you better prepare for the next interview?

Send a sincere, handwritten thank you note.

Follow up with the employer by phone if they do not respond to you by the time they said they would.



### **A Second Interview**

When employers are interviewing several people for a position, they sometimes ask the strongest candidates to come back for a second interview. This is a very good sign. It means that you are a contender.

The second interview will focus on your skills, ability to solve problems, and your ability to get along with the other people in the department.

### **Action Words**

### Communication/ People Skills

Addressed Advertised Arbitrated Arranged Articulated Authored Clarified Collaborated Communicated Composed Condensed Conferred Consulted Contracted Conveyed Convinced Corresponded Debated Defined Developed Directed Discussed Drafted Edited Elicited Formulated Furnished Incorporated Influenced Interacted Interpreted Interviewed Involved Joined Judged Lectured Listened Marketed Mediated Negotiated Observed Outlined **Participated** Persuaded Presented Promoted Proposed Publicized

Reinforced Reported Resolved Responded Solicited Specified Spoke Suggested Summarized Synthesized Translated Wrote

### **Creative Skills**

Acted Adapted Began Combined Composed Conceptualized Condensed Created Customized Designed Developed Directed Displayed Drew Entertained Established Fashioned Formulated Founded Illustrated Initiated Instituted Integrated Introduced Invented Modeled Modified Originated Performed Photographed Planned Revised Revitalized Shaped

Solved

### Data Skills/ Financial Skills

Administered Adjusted Allocated Analyzed Appraised Assessed Audited Balanced Budgeted Calculated Computed Conserved Corrected Determined Developed Estimated Forecasted Managed Marketed Measured Netted Planned Prepared Programmed Projected **Oualified** Reconciled Reduced Researched

### Helping Skills

Retrieved

Adapted Advocated Aided Answered Arranged Assessed Assisted Clarified Collaborated Contributed Cooperated Counseled Demonstrated Educated Encouraged Ensured Expedited Facilitated Familiarized Furthered Guided Helped Insured Intervened Motivated Prevented Provided Referred Rehabilitated Represented Resolved Simplified Supplied Supported Volunteered

### Management/ Leadership Skills

Administered Analyzed Appointed Approved Assigned Attained Authorized Chaired Considered Consolidated Contracted Controlled Coordinated Decided Delegated Developed Directed Eliminated **Emphasized** Enforced Enhanced Established Executed Generated Handled Headed Hired Hosted **Improved** 

Reconciled

Recruited

Referred

Incorporated Increased Initiated Instituted Led Managed Merged Motivated Navigated Organized Originated Overhauled Oversaw Planned Presided Prioritized Produced Recommended Reorganized Replaced Restored Reviewed Scheduled Secured Selected Streamlined Strengthened Supervised Terminated

### Organizational Skills

Approved Arranged Catalogued Categorized Charter Classified Coded Collected Compiled Corrected Corresponded Distributed Filed Generated Incorporated Inspected Maintained Monitored Obtained Operated Ordered Organized Prepared Processed

Provided

Purchased Recorded Registered Reserved Responded Reviewed Routed Scheduled Screened Submitted Supplied Standardized Systematized Updated Validated Verified

#### Research Skills

Analyzed Collected Compared Conducted Critiqued Detected Determined Diagnosed Evaluated Examined Explored Extracted Formulated Gathered Inspected Interviewed Investigated Located Measured Organized Researched Reviewed Solved Summarized Surveyed Systematized Tested

#### Teaching Skills

Adapted Advised Clarified Coached Communicated Conducted Coordinated Critiqued Developed Encouraged Evaluated **Explained** Facilitated Focused Guided Individualized Informed Instilled Instructed Motivated Persuaded Simulated Stimulated Taught Tested Trained Transmitted Tutored

#### Technical Skills

Adapted Applied Assembled Built Calculated Computed Conserved Constructed Converted Debugged Designed Determined Developed Engineered **Fabricated** Fortified Maintained Operated Overhauled Printed Programmed Rectified Regulated Remodeled Repaired Replaced Restored Solved Specialized Standardized Studied Upgraded Utilized

### Descriptive Resume Statements

You can use any of these statements that apply to you when writing your resume. Change them to fit your skills and qualifications or create new statements.

**Remember:** You do not need to put a period at the end of the statements because they are not complete sentences.

Statements should be in past tense unless you are referring to a job that you are currently performing.

#### Assembly Skills:

- Worked in assembly and production of (wood, metal, plastic) products
- Demonstrated good manual and finger dexterity at a rapid continuous rate
- Experienced in inspecting and sorting on an assembly line
- Assembled computers and external drives in bulk quantities

### **Building Trades Skills:**

- Experienced in operating various power tools including the drill press, radial arm saw, skill saw, electric hand drill, and circular saw
- Responsible for the remodeling and repairing of several houses while working with wood, metal, cement, and insulation
- Operated a variety of air tools including nail and staple guns, drills, and drivers

### Care Giving Skills:

(Also see "Nursing Skills")

- Experienced personal care attendant for the elderly and physically disabled
- Demonstrated a high degree of patience, reliability, and sensitivity to others
- Gained valuable experience caring for children

#### **Clerical Skills:**

(Also see "Record Keeping Skills")

- Experienced in basic account/record keeping
- Typed at \_\_\_\_\_ words per minute
- Operated various office equipment including multi-line phone, copy machine, Dictaphone, postage meter, and fax machine
- Sorted, filed, and delivered mail to appropriate departments
- Performed general clerical work including typing, filing, and record keeping
- Filed materials using numerical, alphabetical, and chronological filing systems

#### Coaching Skills:

- Trained in all aspects of coaching \_\_\_\_
- Experienced in coaching at the high school and collegiate level
- Proven ability to enforce team standards
- Coached teams to six league championships

#### **Communication Skills:**

- Demonstrated ability to use persuasive sales techniques
- Performed and entertained before live audiences
- Proven ability to serve customers and establish a positive rapport
- Demonstrated ability to create effective ideas and slogans
- Successfully answered complaints over the phone and in person

### **Computer Skills:**

- Trained in MS Office, Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Mac OS X
- Ability to program in Java, HTML, and C++
- Input numeric data into company database
- Designed, tested, and implemented programs to \_\_\_\_\_

### Counseling Skills:

- Conducted group, individual, and family approach counseling
- Performed crisis intervention counseling for troubled teens

- Referred clients to appropriate resources within the community
- Developed individualized client goal plans

#### **Creative Designing Skills:**

- Designed, coordinated, and constructed numerous handerafted items
- Demonstrated creativity in areas such as drawing, painting, knitting, crocheting, woodworking, and other crafts

#### **Custodial Skills:**

- Responsible for cleaning and general maintenance of bathrooms, hallways, and offices
- Operated a floor scrubber, buffer, and industrial waxing machine
- Performed grounds keeping and cleanup for twelve office buildings
- Emptied trash and sorted recyclables on a daily basis
- Mopped and waxed floors with industrial machines

### **Farming Skills:**

- Operated and maintained farm machinery
- Performed regular duties of a large-scale farm operation including planting and harvesting crops and caring for cattle
- Oversaw a crew of ten workers for planting season

#### **Food Service Skills:**

- Prepared food in large quantities following recipes and menu plans
- Experienced washing dishes and doing general cleaning of food preparation areas
- Served food to residents in a timely manner

#### **General Work Skills:**

- Possess a valid driver's license and clean driving record
- Possess a valid chauffeur's license
- Experienced in driving, loading, and unloading trucks
- Experienced in surveying lots and roads

#### **Housekeeping Skills:**

- Experienced in performing all aspects of housekeeping including vacuuming, dusting, cleaning, mopping, waxing floors, and making beds
- Demonstrated reliability and punctuality on the job
- Followed detailed instructions for housecleaning

#### **Leadership Skills:**

- Responsible for conducting meetings and coordinating committees
- Gained knowledge of various speech, advertising, assertiveness, and sales techniques
- Experienced as lead foreman for a major construction company

#### **Machine Operation Skills:**

(club/organization/etc.)

- Drove and operated heavy equipment including forklifts, backhoes, caterpillars, and dump trucks
- Operated remote controlled overhead crane hosts to move large items
- Operated a \_\_\_\_\_ on the production line to make
- Monitored machines for maintenance and wrote up reports on malfunctioning machines

#### **Maintenance Skills:**

- Sandblasted old engine parts
- Responsible for all minor and major building repairs
- Performed minor electric and plumbing repairs
- Welded small engine parts

### **Management Skills:**

 Gained knowledge of management techniques including leadership styles, problem solving, and human relations development

- Trained in communication skills between employees and management teams
- Successfully managed a small business of 15 employees

#### **Mechanical Skills:**

- Worked with hydraulic fluids and air systems
- Experienced in machine repair and other related equipment
- Experienced in general maintenance of cars, trucks, and farm machinery

### **Nursing Skills:**

- Coordinated patients' treatment in multidisciplinary and team approaches
- Certified as a (Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, or Nursing Assistant)
- Responsible for daily care of patents including bathing, dressing, and feeding
- Charted patients' daily progress and special needs
- Supervised and assisted residents with daily activities
- Responsible for taking patients' blood pressure, temperatures, and assisting with physical exercises

### Organizational & Planning Skills:

- Demonstrated good organization and time management skills
- Designed and implemented a personalized filing system
- Organized fund raising activities
- Participated in various community service activities

### **Personality Characteristics:**

- Worked well under pressure while achieving team goals
- Demonstrated ability to learn new things quickly
- Displayed a capability to work independently or in a team setting
- Demonstrated outgoing and enthusiastic personality

### **Problem Solving Skills:**

- Experienced in answering customer complaints and problem solving
- Delegated employee duties when workers were unsure of their individual tasks

#### **Production Skills:**

- Worked on a production line making
- Experienced in a variety of food production duties including cutting, packaging, cleaning, and sterilizing equipment
- Performed quality inspections and completed daily production records
- Ability to read blueprints or schematics and process work orders
- Maintained safety and cleanliness of work area

#### **Repair Technician Skills:**

- Experienced in basic troubleshooting for computers and computer hardware
- Experienced in using a variety of test equipment including oscilloscopes, multimeters, and probes
- Gained familiarity with schematics and flow charts
- Trained and experienced in the maintenance and repair of electronic equipment

### **Record Keeping Skills:**

- Experienced receiving and writing up purchase orders
- Responsible for billing and collecting payments
- Performed inventory and general shipping and receiving duties in the \_\_\_\_\_\_ (department)
- Kept up-to-date records of business inventory for all purchasing departments

#### **Sales Skills:**

- Assisted customers with the purchasing of merchandise
- Worked as a cashier in a (grocery/retail etc.) store
- Experienced in wholesale sales in the area

- Serviced established accounts in a \_\_\_\_\_ business
- Responsible for developing and maintaining sales routes
- Set up product displays for promotional purposes
- Conducted telephone soliciting which included scheduling appointments
- Planned and performed product demonstrations with vendors

### **Teaching Skills:**

- Certified to teach grades \_\_\_\_\_
- Lectured and delivered \_\_\_\_\_ education to schools and community action groups
- Developed curriculum and daily lesson plans
- Planned, organized, and supervised recreational activities for \_\_\_\_\_
- Trained in a variety of teaching techniques required to meet the different learning modes of each individual
- Experienced in 1:1 and small group tutoring
- Experienced as a group trainer

#### **Writing Skills:**

- Responsible for writing reports for company updates and correspondence
- Developed strong written communication skills and have prepared discharge summaries
- Published materials in three business articles



Where your future begins
Nebraska VR
Nebraska Department of Education
www.vr.nebraska.gov